

are going on in regard to such between Great Britain and Russia." Several weeks before, in May, the following minutes were recorded at the quarters of the Russian naval staff: "Proceeding from the fact that an agreement between Russia and England is desirable regarding the cooperation of their marine forces in the event of war with France participating, the conference reached the following conclusion: 'The contemplated naval convention shall regulate the relations between the Russian and English forces at sea; therefore an understanding is to be arrived at regarding signals, special ciphers, radio-telegrams and the mode of intercourse between the Russian and English naval staffs. The two staffs shall also regularly make mutual communications regarding the fleets of third powers and their own fleets, especially regarding technical data, recently introduced machinery and inventions. Following the example of the Franco-Russian naval convention, there shall also be brought about a regular exchange of opinions between the Russian and English naval staffs concerning matters which interest the marine ministry of both states. . . . The Russian interests in the Baltic demand that England confine as large a part as possible of the German fleet to the North Sea. In this way the overwhelming superiority of the German fleet to the Russian would be offset, and perhaps a Russian landing in Pomerania be made possible. To this latter end the English government could render a signal service by sending, before the commencement of war operations, a large number of merchant ships to Baltic ports, that the lack of Russian transport ships might be remedied. . . . Russian ships should be allowed, with the consent of England, to use English ports in the English Mediterranean as a basis, just as the French naval agreement allows the Russian fleet to use as bases the French ports in the western Mediterranean.'"

CRITICISM.

One of the critics of *The Open Court's* editorial position on the European war stated that every nine out of ten Americans are pro-British in their sympathies in the present war; but judging from letters received and practical results in the way of subscriptions and renewals to *The Open Court* the very opposite of this statement is true. I have published every criticism which contains pro-British sentiment, but if I were to publish pro-German replies I should not find room in the magazine if I doubled the size of the regular edition.

One of these anti-British critics advises me to omit the word religion from the cover of *The Open Court*, because, he says, religion is wrong and science is right, and that science teaches one to fight his way and not to be trodden under foot. For this reason he sends in his subscription, saying that *The Open Court* is not so "silly" as he had expected it to be.

I will say, however, that religion is by no means the entanglement of ancient superstitions which hold man in subjection. Religion is the world-conception which we hold, and its application to practical life is called ethics, and the basis of our ethics is science. If science teaches us that life is a struggle for the survival of the fittest we must learn to be the fittest, and to be the fittest is sometimes not possible without severe struggle. It is wise to avoid war, and we do so by trying to live peaceably with our fellow creatures. We sometimes consent to terms in which we make concessions that would be

less costly than war, but there are times when there is simply no alternative except surrender and submission on the one hand or war on the other, and it is such a case which presented itself to Austria-Hungary and Germany at the beginning of the present war.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE OLD WORLD IN THE NEW. The Significance of Past and Present Immigration to the American People. By *Edward Alsworth Ross*, Ph. D., LL. D. Illustrated by many photographs and a frontispiece by Wladyslaw T. Benda. New York: Century Co. Pp. 327. Price \$2.40 net.

Professor Ross is at his best in this thorough and fearless investigation of the American problem of immigration. He first discusses historically and industrially the original elements that had gone to make up the American people when it first became a nation. Then a full chapter is devoted to each important racial element which has been added since then, the Irish, the German, the Scandinavian, the Italian, the Slav, the eastern Hebrews and the lesser immigrant groups. Professor Ross treats for each racial group the time and occasion of the successive emigrating waves, the distribution of the group in this country, and its contribution intellectually, temperamentally, morally and politically to our social, industrial and national life. Then follows a general discussion respectively of the economic and social effects of immigration and the relation of immigrant peoples to our political institutions. It is clear that Professor Ross believes that something must be done permanently to lessen the great influx from southern and eastern Europe (temporarily, of course, the European war has put a stop to it). In reply to the protest of employers of labor that immigrants are an industrial necessity because "Americans nowadays aren't any good for hard or dirty work," our author cites the strenuous life of the extreme west and northwest, and adds: "The secret is that with the insweep of the unintelligible bunk-house foreigner there grows up a driving and cursing of labor which no self-respecting American will endure." The reason that the character of our immigration has changed so that "the confessed illiteracy of the multitudes coming from southern and eastern Europe is 35.8 per ct. as against 2.7 per ct. for the dwindling streams from the north and west," Professor Ross states as follows: "The streaming in from the backward lands is sensibly converting this country from a low-pressure area into a high-pressure area. It is nearly a generation since the stress registered in the labor-market caused the British workingman to fight shy of America. It is twenty years since it reached the point at which the German workingman, already on the up-grade at home, ceased to be drawn to America. As the saturation of our labor-market by cheaper and ever cheaper human beings raises the pressure-gage, we fail to attract as of yore such peoples as the North Italians and the Magyars."

The great danger socially is in the way of lowering our standards. This is shown in the success of yellow journalism, in the slowness with which the woman's movement is gaining ground in the east, and in countless other ways. The hope that the second generation will be sufficiently Americanized to overcome the present defects is contradicted by the increasing influence of the parish schools.

"When, now, to the removal of the second generation from the public school there is added, as is often the case, the endeavor to keep them away